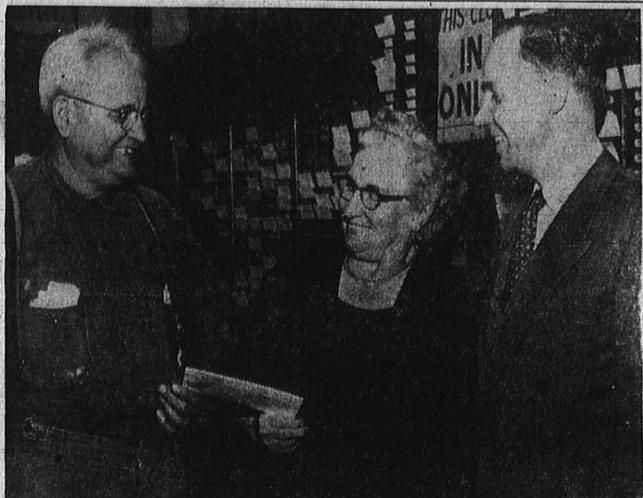


# City To Buy 30-Acre Civic Center Site for \$120,000

## Employment Here Hits 46,000



**MORE DIMES AID . . .** Mrs. Clara Conner, chairman of the Torrance March of Dimes Drive, accepts a check for \$502 from Frank Smith representing members of Local 1414, Steelworkers of America at Columbia Steel Co. Other employees at the local steel-making plant were represented by Don Hyde, (right) manager of industrial relations. The sum was the largest single contribution made to the 1953 campaign, Mrs. Conner reported.

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# TORRANCE HERALD

—and Torrance Herald Shoppers Reach 100,000 Buyers

39th Year—No. 25 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1953 PHONE TORRANCE 444 12 32 PAGES

## Businesses In Home Gets City Council Nod

Residents conducting businesses in their homes were assured by the Torrance City Council Tuesday night that it had no intention of "running them out of business."

Meanwhile, the council instructed the city license inspector to enter a two-week "do nothing" period regarding the collection of licenses until the council meets with the Planning Commission.

## Concert Group Readies Drive For New Members

Plans for a campaign to enlist community-wide enthusiasm for a Community Concert Series next fall and winter were discussed this week at a meeting of the Torrance Community Concert Assn. under the direction of its new leader, Bernice Lee.

Preliminary discussion was held on the opening of a drive to enroll members in the association to support another series of concerts next year. This year's series offered three programs.

Community Concerts conducts an annual one-week membership campaign during which citizens are invited to join.

Each member pays annual dues for a membership which entitles him to attend all the concerts given by the association each season. This creates an audience in advance, its backers claim, and lets the local association determine the type and number of programs available for the money which can be spent.

At the close of the campaign week no more memberships are sold, and only members of the association can attend the concerts.

Details of the campaign, which will be opened soon with a kick-off dinner, will be announced later, Lee said.

## Chamber Report Shows 46,000 Employed Here

A population study of the county, based on areas of employment, indicates there are 46,000 persons employed in the city of Torrance.

The report, compiled by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce listing 23 communities and nine business fields, also shows that the majority of workers here, or 16,800, are employed in manufacturing trades.

A breakdown of the nine business fields reveals the following:

Manufacturing	16,800
Retail and wholesale trade	8,200
Service trades	8,500
Transportation, communications and utilities	1,300
Finance, real estate and insurance	1,600
Government	1,000
Construction	5,600
Agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and domestic	2,400
Mining	700
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,000</b>

## Gas Company, Union Differ On Contract

Negotiations between the Southern California Gas Co. and Utility Workers of America, CIO, have failed to settle a threatened dispute between the company and the union, a company spokesman said yesterday.

The company has offered an across-the-board wage hike of 5 per cent and a plan for faster raises when employees are promoted.

Members of the union negotiating committee have been reported as saying the offer was not satisfactory. Strike action has been indicated if the settlement isn't effected by the time the present contract expires on April 1.

At earlier negotiations, the union demanded 10 per cent general increases with a minimum increase of 18 cents per hour.

The Utility Workers union represents approximately 3500 employees in the gas company, officials claim.

## Refinery Steam Line Lets Go With a Boom

An explosion which pierced the stillness of Saturday night at approximately 9:30 was attributed to a rupturing steam line at the General Petroleum Corp. refinery, a company spokesman reported.

Damage was negligible and no one was injured.

The fact that the explosion was heard over a wide section of the city was credited to a low layer of clouds which reflected the sound earthward.

The spokesman said the incident was considered as "practically routine."

## Edison Company Offers 25 Gs For Saboteurs

A scorching telegram labeling the dynamiting of Southern California Edison Co. power lines a revolt against law and order was sent to Gov. Earl Warren yesterday by W. C. Mullendore, president of the company.

At the same time, he offered a \$25,000 reward for the conviction of any saboteur.

The blistering message, which said union leaders could not escape the responsibility "for having set in motion the forces of hatred and unlimited violence," followed reports that five of the company's main transmission lines were dynamited in sparsely settled areas of the Southland.

No Damage Here

Commenting on the sabotage to company facilities yesterday, District Manager Lew Jenkins said no acts of violence had been reported in this area.

Mullendore's telegram to Warren directed the governor's attention "to the fact of overshadowing importance which is that this is not a strike but a revolt against law and order and an attack upon the safety and the very life of a community of three million people."

Seek Union Shop

Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union, Local 47, are demanding wage hikes and union shop provisions as a condition for settlement of the dispute.

Meanwhile Sheriff Biscailuz ordered all division commanders to have radio patrol cars make periodic checks on all company facilities in their areas.

At the same time, the FBI disclosed that it was investigating the dynamite blasts to determine if the sabotage violated any Federal statutes.

The company said service was being maintained despite the attempts to cut power. The union has been on strike since March 9.



**LADY FROM PARIS . . .** Is Dorothy Creighton, 112 Vista del Parque, a newcomer to Hollywood Riviera, who is taking advantage of a balmy spring day to study for the leading feminine role which she plays in the South Bay Civic Light Opera Association's latest production, "The Lady from Paris." The musical features the music of Tschalkowsky. Five performances of the light opera will be offered on April 10, 11, 12, 17 and 18 in the Redondo Beach High School auditorium.

## Torrance Blvd. Site Picked for Civic Center

Action leading to the eventual creation of a new civic center on a 30-acre tract of land at Torrance Blvd. and Madrona Ave, was taken by the City Council Tuesday night. The council instructed the city manager to proceed with negotiations to purchase the land for approximately \$120,000.

The acreage lies north of Torrance Blvd. between Maple and Madrona Aves.

According to City Manager George W. Stevens, the tract of land eventually would become the site of the city hall, the city's major park, and other municipal buildings and facilities.

"Also," stated the city manager, "the site being almost at the geographic center of the city, would probably be the location of a city-owned swimming pool."

He explained his request for immediate council action on the plan stating:

"If the city doesn't acquire a site soon, we will never be able to get one without resorting to expensive condemnation proceedings. The need for such a civic center is not 'years and years away.' The need will become critical within the not-too-distant future," he said.

He pointed out, however, that no immediate move was contemplated.

Earlier, Stevens pointed out that in his opinion any extensive expansion of present city-owned buildings, including the city hall, is virtually impossible. He said the engineering design of the present city hall made it impossible to increase the height and that only a small amount of additional space could be acquired by adding to the present facilities on ground level.

He said that a relocation of the police department and jail was imminent. "At times," he claims, "it is impossible for police cars to get out of the parking lot due to traffic congestion on Cravens Ave. We are moving the fire station because of this condition."

## Torrance Will Bear Sign Cost

The City of Torrance agreed Tuesday night to accept and maintain a 16-foot neon sign soon to be erected on Torrance Blvd. and Western Ave. through the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber secretary Dale Isenberg wrote the council that the sign was being financed through pledges and from membership dues. He asked the city to furnish the electricity and to maintain the sign, which will be approximately 16 feet in height and will indicate the direction of the central business district of the city.

## Guard Caught In Legislative Squeeze Play

Members of the City Council Tuesday night put the squeeze on the California National Guard which sought an extension of three years on a conditional deed to a tract of city-owned land on which the militia is planning to build an armory.

The extension was granted, but only until the end of the current session of the State Legislature.

"I can't see," said City Manager George W. Stevens, "giving the National Guard a blanket three-year extension. They have had three years now. If they want the land badly enough, perhaps they can get an appropriation for the Torrance armory during this session of the Legislature."

General Dan Hudson, commanding general of the 40th Infantry Division, stated in his letter to the council that the state would like to build a \$150,000 armory here to house the 57th Combat Engineers, "Torrance's Own," National Guard unit. The general said the \$150,000 had "a good chance" of passing during this session of the California Legislature.



**JACK N. DABBS** (Herald Photo)  
To Head Local Rotary Club

## Jack Dabbs Elected President of Rotary

Jack N. Dabbs, general manager of M & M Enterprises, which operates a chain of theaters here and in Gardena, has been elected president of the Torrance Rotary Club to succeed Atty. Donald Armstrong.

Dabbs, a member of the board of directors of the club last year and treasurer the year before, will take office July 1.

The new president of the Rotary has been a resident of Torrance since 1938 and has been associated with the M & M Enterprises most of that time. He was with the firm when it acquired the Grand Theater in the fall of 1939 shortly after its opening, and was instrumental in the opening of the Gardena Theater and the Stadium Theater in Torrance in 1949.

He and his family live at 1640 Juniper Ave.

Dabbs was named to the club's highest office Monday evening at a meeting of the new board of directors. Included on the board will be Judge John Shidler, A. E. Thompson, George Post, John Ebbinghouse, William A. Zoeller, Rev. Cecil England, and Carl Warner. Warner was named to retain the vice-presidency, a position he now holds. The ninth member of the board will be retiring president, Armstrong.

The local club has more than 65 members, and the roster includes many of the city's leading business and industrial leaders.

## \$100 Park Plan Splits Council

To the obvious annoyance of the other members of the council including Mayor Mervin M. Schwab, two members of the City Council Tuesday night put the skids under a plan to provide neighborhood parks in future new home tracts with out additional cost to long-time Torrance residents.

The plan was to levy a \$100 per gross acre fee on land to be subdivided into tracts of four or more homes. The money would be used to purchase land adjacent to the developments for park and recreational purposes.

Five Year Need

"We've needed something like this for five years," Schwab said with a note of bitterness when the motion failed.

"Well, I wasn't on the council five years ago," snapped Councilman Victor E. Benstead whose vote along with that of Councilman Nick Dralle killed the motion.

The bill was designed to lighten the burden on residents of long standing who under the present plan are forced to pay for the development of parks in new areas as they open up. The residents of the new home tracts who benefit the most pay little or nothing toward the purchase of the recreation areas.

\$25 Per Lot

The plan for the \$100 fee which would amount to approximately \$25 per home, was passed to the city council from the Recreation Commission with a "do pass" recommendation.

Benstead objected to the plan stating: "There is a move afoot by several organizations to have the schools take over the recreation for the city. I don't want to do anything that would interfere with their plans."

Councilman Dralle objected to

## Manager Asks Group Meet

A group of citizens who objected to the erection of a storm drain on Ermanita Ave. and 16th St. were invited Tuesday night to meet with the city manager to discuss the problem.

George W. Stevens, the city manager, told the City Council that if the drain was not constructed he was to be carried off would lie in the area and become stagnated. He said it was not a permanent ditch, and that as soon as a tract of homes would be built adjacent to the area the water would be carried off in gutters.

## Always Room For One More!

Frank Walter Blasas, 43, of 815 Border Ave., found the Torrance Police Department very accommodating Sunday evening.

He phoned the police from a location opposite Columbia Steel and told them he was drunk and wanted to go to jail.

Officers Don Cook and A. W. Winkler helped fulfill the man's wishes.



**JOINS HOLLYWOOD** . . . Former Torrance High baseball pitcher Harry Theodosius was reported yesterday to have signed a contract with the Hollywood Stars. He will join the Hollywood ball club at Anaheim to finish spring training. Already with the Stars is pitcher Billy Joe Waters, teammate of Harry's, at Torrance High and on local semi-pro teams.